

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-11 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 INT-08 SCI-06

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R 232304Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2436

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0242

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, UN, FR

SUBJ: ENERGY - FRENCH PROPOSAL FORAN ENERGY CONFERENCE;
ACTIVITIES OF THE SYG

1. AMB KARHILO (FINLAND), PRES ECOSOC, HAS CALLED FOR MEETING OF BUREAU ECOSOC RE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR ENERGY CONFERENCE. KARHILO HAS VERY CAREFULLY CHARACTERIZED MEETING AS INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG OFFICERS OF ECOSOC.

2. STATEMENT ISSUED AT SYG'S NOON PRESS BRIEFING AS FOLLOWS:

"THE SECRETARY GENERAL ALSO DISCUSSED THE FRENCH PROPOSAL OF A WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE UNDER UN AUSPICES WITH HIS ASSISTANTS. HE ALSO HAS TURNED OVER TO AMBASSADOR AARNO KARHILO (FINLAND), THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, A COPY OF THE PROPOSAL SENT BY FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT.

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"KHARHILO WILL NOW CONSULT WITH ECOSOC MEMBERS ON THE

"MODALITIES" OF SUCH A UN CONFERENCE. THE SECRETARY GENERAL IS ALSO EXPECTED TO INFORM THE FRENCH SOON ON THE ACTIONS TAKEN.

"ALTHOUGH THE SECRETARY GENERAL SAID IN HIS RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE THAT ECOSOC PROBABLY COULD NOT ARRANGE TO TAKE UP THE ENERGY PROBLEM BEFORE THE MEETING NEXT JULY, THE UN SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IF AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AMONG ECOSOC MEMBERS THE MATTER COULD PROBABLY BE CONSIDERED AS EARLY AS THE SPRING MEETING."

3. KARHILO EXCEPTIONALLY UPSET AT SYG'S STATEMENT THAT (A) "KARHILO WILL NOW CONSULT WITH ECOSOC MEMBERS"; AND (B) "DISCUSSION TO INCLUDE 'MODALITIES' OF UN CONFERENCE." BREITENSTEIN, FINNISH ECOSOC REP, CONVEYED TO AMB FERGUSON THAT IT APPEARED SYG WAS PUSHING UN INTO COMMITMENT ON ENERGY CONFERENCE WHILE CAREFULLY STAYING AWAY FROM A PERSONAL COMMITMENT. HE ASKED IF USG COULD INTERVENE TO SLOW DOWN POSSIBLE GATHRING STEAM-ROLLER. FERGUSON INDICATED WE SHARE HIS CONCERNS BUT STILL AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS ON MATTER. MEANWHILE FERGUSON ADVISED THAT KARHILO SIT TIGHT SINCE IN FACT ONLY DOCUMENT AVAILABLE IS UNOFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE OF JOBERT LETTER HENCE KARHILO COULD TAKE POSITION NOTHING MORE THAN PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF INFORMAL VIEWS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE UNTIL A LEGAL INSTRUMENT WERE LAID ON TABLE.

4. ROLE OF SYG VERY MYSTERIOUS. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HE, IN FACT, IS SANDBAGGING UN THROUGH ECOSOC INTO CONFERENCE COMMITMENT. AT A RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE, SYG SAID HE "FEELS THERE WILL BE UN INVOLVEMENT TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN PREVIOUSLY IN ENERGY."
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